



Campus fire safety is a serious issue

According to the National Fire Protection Association, more than 3,800 university housing fires occur each year in the United States, causing 5 deaths, 50 injuries and \$26 million in property loss.

There are various causes of campus fires, but the fundamental issue is general lack of knowledge about fire safety and prevention.

Cooking is the leading cause of fires, over 83%, followed by arson, open flame, heating, and unintentional or careless behavior.

Alcohol abuse is often a factor in campus fire fatalities. Alcohol can impair judgment and hamper evacuation efforts.

Students can prepare for a safe new life away from home by following a few simple guidelines.

Personal vigilance is the best way to avoid and survive fires!

Questions to Ask About Student Housing

- Have there have been any fires?
- Does every bedroom and level have a smoke alarm?
- Are there carbon monoxide alarms within 10 feet of every bedroom?
- Is the building equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system?
- Is there on-site management to help in an emergency?

On Campus Specific Questions:

- How much fire prevention training does the residence hall staff receive?
- How often are evacuation drills conducted?
- How often are fire safety inspections done?
- How many false alarms happened in the residence halls last year?

Off Campus Specific Questions:

- How many people are living in the house or apartment?
- Is smoking allowed in the house or apartment?
- Are there scheduled evacuation drills?
- Is there a fire escape plan for the building?

College Fire Safety



www.fire.state.mn.us

What You Can Do:

Identify and understand the fire hazards in your environment at all times. Awareness, followed by an action plan, will improve your chance of survival.



Contributing Factors:

Many factors contribute to the problem of student housing fires.

- Improper use of the 911 notification systems delays emergency responders.
- Lack of awareness when fire is a risk or threat in the environment.
- Fire alarms are often ignored; that hinders evacuation efforts.
- Building evacuations are slow due to lack of preparation and planning.
- Vandalized or improperly maintained smoke alarms and fire alarm systems inhibit early fire detection.
- Misuse of cooking appliances, overloaded electrical circuits and extension cords increase fire risk.

It's Your Life!

- Assign an “event monitor” who stays unimpaired.
- Clean up immediately after parties and take trash outside.
- Do not overload electrical outlets.
- Keep space heaters and halogen lamps away from flammable material.
- Put out candles and incense when they are unattended.
- Extinguish all smoking materials thoroughly.
- Don't smoke when you're tired or impaired.
- Be sure smoke alarms are in proper working condition.
- Install new smoke alarm batteries at the beginning of each semester.
- Know where all the building exits are located.
- Dumpster fires are common. Dumpsters should be away from the buildings and cars.



Don't Ignore the Alarms!

- Never ignore fire alarms
- Do not wait to see fire or smoke
- Don't worry about “grabbing your stuff.” Your life is more important.
- Report ALL fires to the fire department.
- Once you're out – STAY OUT!



Be Prepared for Emergencies:

- Find and remember all possible exits from your room or residence.
- Make a fire escape plan that includes two different escape routes.
- Practice your fire escape routes.
- Perform a “home inspection” for fire and safety hazards.
- Tell your roommates about your plan.
- Call your local fire department for more information about student housing fire safety.